

January 27, 2009

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Madame Chair and members of the committee.

My name is Judith Kelley and I am from Missoula.

I am here to speak to support increasing the Aging Services Budget to 10 million for the biennium.

In the past 6 months I have received invaluable information, legal guidance, emotional, and financial support from Missoula Aging Services. My mother and I lived together for 10 years during which time I assisted her with all aspects of care up until she broke her hip in May of 2008. Mom is 91 and has been in the nursing home since then. I have maintained four jobs until I had a stroke 3 months ago. Now I am back to fairly good health and have kept only one job so my health does not decline. None of this would have been possible without Missoula Aging Services' excellent assistance. Through all of their assistance the staff has remained encouraging, knowledgeable, supportive, and patient. The expertise offered by them is invaluable and thanks to them I am able to stay in my home.

Thank you for listening to my testimony and again, please provide funding to continue these important services.

Judith Kelley
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